

Message Text

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BIB-01 IO-14 ACDA-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /135 W
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R 071458Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2575
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 1042

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SUBJECT: CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-FINNISH PACT

REF: (A) HELSINKI 0889, (B) HELSINKI 1011

1. SUMMARY: HIGH-LEVEL OBSERVANCES OF THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET-FINNISH FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION
AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TREATY (FCMA) FEATURED A VISIT
TO FINLAND BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND
A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION BY FINNISH PRIME MINISTER
SORSA. BOTH SIDES PRAISED THE PACT AND THE GOOD
SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS IT HAS HELPED TO ASSURE.
THE FINNISH SIDE USED THE OCCASION TO STRESS THE
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE PREVAILING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
AND TO MAKE A BID FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC EXCHANGE.
FOR THE SOVIETS, THE OCCASION OFFERED A PUBLIC
WESTERN FORUM FOR THEIR DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN.
END SUMMARY.
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2. THE CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SOVIET-FINNISH FCMA PACT WAS HIGH-LIGHTED BY
THE FINNISH VISIT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER
GROMYKO (REF A). AT THE SAME TIME, A FINNISH
DELEGATION LED BY PRIME MINISTER SORSA, COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER SAARTO (COMMUNIST) AND INTERIOR MINISTER

UUSITALO (CENTER PARTY) TRAVELLED TO MOSCOW FOR CELEBRATIONS THERE. OTHER EXCHANGES INCLUDED A LABOR DELEGATION TO FINLAND HEADED BY AUCCTU SECRETARY ALEXEI VICTOROV, A RECIPROCAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING FINLAND'S THREE MAIN LABOR FEDERATIONS WHICH TOURED THE SOVIET UNION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SAK SECRETARY PER-ERIK LUNDH, A FORTY-MEMBER FINNISH YOUTH DELEGATION WHICH VISITED THE USSR UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MARTIKAINEN (CENTER PARTY), WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE YOUTH BOARD, AND A VISIT BY A SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY (CPSU) DELEGATION TO THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP).

3. THE CPSU VISIT WAS A HISTORIC EVENT IN THAT IT WAS THE FIRST EVER OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SDP. A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO PARTIES STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FCMA AS THE FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONS AMONG PARTIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT ALSO CONDEMNED THE NEUTRON BOMB, A FACT MENTIONED IN THE SDP NEWSPAPER DEMARI, WHICH AT THE SAME TIME NOTED THE UPCOMING DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE SDP AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE USSR AND THE U.S. (AMBASSADOR LEONARD) WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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4. AS REPORTED EARLIER (REF B) THE NEUTRON BOMB WAS ALSO A SUBJECT OF GROMYKO'S KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE CELEBRATIONS CEREMONY IN HELSINKI. THE DISARMAMENT THEME, AND THE COMMITMENT OF FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION TO "DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO END THE ARMS RACE", WAS AN IMPORTANT FOCUS OF PRESS ACCOUNTS OF GROMYKO'S TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN AND PRIME MINISTER SORSA, WHO RETURNED FROM MOSCOW TO MEET WITH GROMYKO ON APRIL 6. GROMYKO ALSO MET WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, FOR WHOM HE HOSTED A DINNER AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND WHO HOSTED A LUNCH FOR HIM AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. GROMYKO AND VAYRYNEN SIGNED A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND VAYRYNEN ALSO LAID WREATHS ON THE GRAVE OF PRESIDENT PAASIKIVI AND A MEMORIAL TO LENIN.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CELEBRATIONS OF THE TREATY, THERE WERE RALLIES HELD IN A NUMBER OF CITIES AROUND FINLAND. SPEAKERS RANGED FROM SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR STRELTSOV, WHO CALLED THE TREATY AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE

SOVIET SECURITY SYSTEM, TO CONSERVATIVE PARTY
CHAIRMAN HOLKERI, WHO NOTED THAT THE TREATY
HAS NOW ACHIEVED THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE
FINNISH PEOPLE.

6. FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN SAARINEN CHOSE
TO MAKE A THEME OF HIS RALLY SPEECH THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN HELSINKI, WHICH SAARINEN
ALLEGED CONSISTED OF DISSEMINATING ANTI-SOVIET
PUBLICATIONS. HE CHARGED THAT THESE ACTIVITIES
ARE CONTRARY TO BOTH THE 1947 PARIS PEACE TREATY
AND THE FCMA. ON THE FCMA ITSELF, SAARINEN QUOTED

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KEKKONEN AS SAYING THAT FINLAND IS NOT NEUTRAL
IN MATTERS OF WAR AND PEACE, AND HE ASKED WHETHER
ON THE OTHER HAND FINLAND HAS BECOME "SUFFICIENTLY
ALIGNED" ON THESE QUESTIONS.

7. HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ANNIVERSARY
EMPHASIZED THE CELEBRATIONS' ATTENTION TO THE ROLE
THE FCMA HAS PLAYED IN STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION
OF THE FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRESS ECHOED
THE THEME OF KEKKONEN IN HIS SPEECH (REF B) IN
WHICH HE NOTED THAT THE FCMA HAS CONFIRMED A SYSTEM
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INTO WHICH FINNISH-SOVIET
RELATIONS FIT WELL. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW

GRANTED JUST PRIOR TO THE CELEBRATIONS, KEKKONEN OBSERVED THAT THE FCMA HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED AT THE TIME OF ITS TWO EXTENSIONS, AND THAT THE TREATY REMAINS DURABLE. HE NOTED, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT ALTHOUGH MORE ATTENTION IS NOW PAID TO OTHER FEATURES OF THE TREATY RELATIVE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY CLAUSES THAN WAS THE CASE AT THE TIME OF SIGNING, THESE MILITARY CLAUSES ARE STILL FULLY VALID AND ENABLE FINLAND TO "REMAIN OUTSIDE OF STRATEGIC SPECULATION", THUS STABILIZING SECURITY IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

8. KEKKONEN IN HIS TELEVISION INTERVIEW, AS IN HIS MAIN SPEECH, STRESSED THE NEED TO INCREASE FINNISH-SOVIET TRADE RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT RECESSION IS ADDING TO THE FIRMNESS OF FINNISH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

9. SEPTEL REPORTS FINNISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS AND EMBASSY COMMENT.
RIDGWAY

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